

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087123

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO, FR, FT, IT

SUBJECT: FRANCIOIS-PONCET'S TALKS IN SOMALIA

REF: MOGADISCIO 582 (NOTAL); ADDIS ABABA 4242

1. ITALIAN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED DEPTOFF APRIL 8 THAT IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING BILATERAL MATTERS, SOMALI VICE PRESIDENT HUSSEIN CULMIE ALSO EXPLAINED SOMALI POLICY TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE FOR DJIBOUTI DURING RECENT ROME VISIT. CULMIE ASSURED ITALIANS SOMALIA WOULD RESPECT DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE AND WOULD SUPPORT ETHIOPIAN ACCESS TO PORT AND MAINTENANCE OF FRENCH INTERESTS. CULMIE ASKED ITALIANS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN SOMALIS AND FRENCH. ITALIANS REPLIED THAT THEY COULD NOT RPT NOT UNDERTAKE TO MEDIATE BETWEEN
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FRANCE AND SOMALIA, BUT THEY WOULD TRY TO CLARIFY POINTS

OF BOTH SIDES AND AID RAPPROCHEMENT.

2. DEPTOFF SAID US HAD ALSO BEEN GIVEN INFORMAL ASSURANCES OF RESPECT FOR DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE AND PROTECTION OF THIRD-COUNTRY INTERESTS. QUESTION WAS DEGREE TO WHICH SUCH ASSURANCES BY THEMSELVES COULD BE COUNTED UPON AND, EVEN IF SO, WHETHER SUCH STATEMENTS BY THEMSELVES WOULD BE TRUSTED BY ETHIOPIANS. DEPTOFF SAID STABILITY IN HORN WAS OF CON-

CERN TO US AND WE WERE WATCHING DJIBOUTI DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY. WE ARE PLEASED THAT ITALIANS, WITH THEIR INTEREST IN AREA, ALSO GIVING ATTENTION TO SITUATION. KISSINGER

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